



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 558

LCO No. 5206

05206SB00558GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT IMPROVING LAND USE PLANNING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established
2 an Office of Responsible Growth within the Intergovernmental Policy
3 Division of the Office of Policy and Management. The Office of
4 Responsible Growth shall have the following responsibilities: (1)
5 Chairing an Interagency Steering Council, which shall consist of
6 Commissioners of Economic and Community Development,
7 Environmental Protection, Agriculture, Transportation and Public
8 Health and the executive directors of the Connecticut Housing Finance
9 Authority and the Connecticut Development Authority, and which
10 shall coordinate policy development and capital planning in an effort
11 to efficiently utilize state expertise and financial resources; (2) creating
12 regional roundtables that shall invite the ongoing participation of city
13 and town officials and foster the development of planning agendas
14 tailored to the specific needs of different parts of the state, including,
15 but not limited to, new transit corridors; (3) developing support and
16 incentives for communities to: (A) Engage in regional planning, (B)

17 update zoning maps and ordinances, and (C) build the capacity of
18 municipal staff, boards and agencies to make complex land use
19 decisions. Such efforts shall include the establishment of a new
20 municipal training program that shall be created in conjunction with
21 regional planning organizations, the Connecticut Land Use Academy
22 and other resources, including, but not limited to, The University of
23 Connecticut and other constituent units of the state system of higher
24 education; (4) updating the "Green Plan" for Connecticut, not later than
25 June 30, 2007, to better identify sensitive ecological areas and unique
26 features, guide acquisition and preservation efforts, support local
27 build-out maps and assessments, and make such maps accessible to
28 state agencies, regional planning agencies, local communities and
29 nongovernmental organizations through geographic information
30 systems; (5) reviewing transportation policies and projects to increase
31 opportunities to promote mass transit and roadway designs that
32 support state and local economic development while preserving and
33 enhancing the character, as well as the "walkability", of communities;
34 (6) expanding housing opportunities to meet the needs of all state
35 residents and to support an expanding workforce with housing that
36 provides ready access to passenger rail and bus service; (7) reviewing
37 all state funding that has an impact on the growth and development of
38 the state and establishing criteria that will target funds for uses that are
39 consistent with goals that emerge for responsible growth; (8) targeting
40 economic incentives to support development in designated responsible
41 growth areas; and (9) creating a new "Green and Growing" web site to
42 highlight best practices and develop a virtual toolbox and roadmap to
43 promote responsible growth, region by region, and community by
44 community.

45 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may hire
46 two additional planning staff to the existing planning staff in the
47 Intergovernmental Policy Division for the purposes of this section.

48 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
49 designate a member of his or her staff to serve as the director of the

50 Office of Responsible Growth.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
-----------	------------------------	-------------

Statement of Purpose:

To improve state, regional and local land use planning.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.

S.B. 558